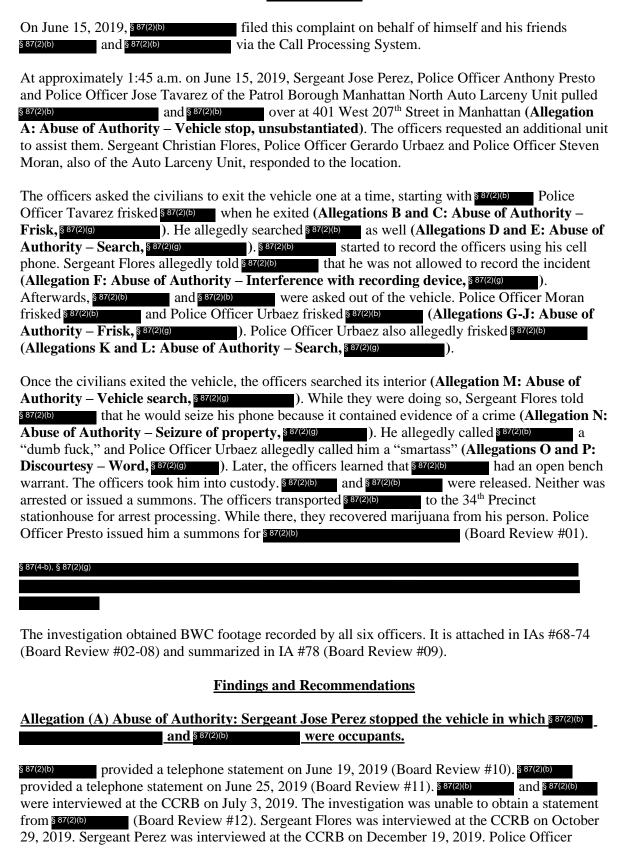
CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator:		Team:		CCRB Case #:		Force	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	Discourt.		U.S.
Owen Godshall		Squad #15	5	201905214		Abuse		O.L.		Injury
			<u> </u>				1.0		T _	
Incident Date(s)		1	of Incident:		P	recinct:		Mo. SOL		O SOL
Saturday, 06/15/2019 1:45 AM		401 West	207th Street			34	12	2/15/2020	8/	/1/2021
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Repor	ted At:	How CV Reported	:	Date/Time	e Rece	eived at CC	RB	
Sat, 06/15/2019 12:48 PM		CCRB		Call Processing System		Sat, 06/15	/2019	12:48 PM		
Complainant/Victim	Type]	Home Addr	ess						
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	ŗ	ГахID	Command						
1. SGT Christian Flores	00752	Ç	946996	PBMN SU						
2. POM Gerardo Urbaez	02356	Ç	947561	030 PCT						
3. POM Steven Moran	02932	Ç	947275	PBMN SU						
4. SGT Jose Perez	04499	Ģ	935496	PBMN SU						
Witness Officer(s)	Shield N	о Т	ax No	Cmd Name						
1. POM Anthony Presto	04236	9	54244	034 PCT						
2. POM Jose Tavarez	02044	9	49716	PBMN SU						
Officer(s)	Allegation	on				Inve	estiga	tor Recor	nmer	dation
A.SGT Jose Perez	Abuse: S	ergeant Jos	se Perez stop	ped the vehicle in w	hich					
	§ 87(2)(b) occupant	cs.		and § 87(2)(b)	V	vere				
B.SGT Jose Perez			se Perez frisk	ced § 87(2)(b)						
C.SGT Christian Flores	Abuse: S	ergeant Ch	ristian Flore	s frisked § 87(2)(b)						
D.SGT Jose Perez	Abuse: S	ergeant Jos	se Perez sear	ched § 87(2)(b)						
E.SGT Christian Flores	Abuse: S	Abuse: Sergeant Christian Flores searched \$87(2)(b)								
F.SGT Christian Flores	Abuse: S		ristian Flores	s interfered with § 87(2 vice	2)(b)					
G.SGT Jose Perez	Abuse: S		se Perez frisk							
H.SGT Christian Flores	Abuse: S	Sergeant Ch	ristian Flore	s frisked § 87(2)(b)						
I.SGT Jose Perez	Abuse: S	ergeant Jos	se Perez frisk	ced § 87(2)(b)						Ī
J.SGT Christian Flores	Abuse: S	ergeant Ch	ristian Flore	s frisked § 87(2)(b)						
K.SGT Jose Perez	Abuse: S	ergeant Jos	se Perez sear	ched § 87(2)(b)						
L.SGT Christian Flores	Abuse: S	ergeant Ch	ristian Flore	s searched § 87(2)(b)						
M.SGT Jose Perez	Abuse: S § 87(2)(b) occupant		se Perez sear	ched the vehicle in v and ^{§ 87(2)(b)}		n vere				
N.SGT Christian Flores		ergeant Ch	ristian Flore	s seized § 87(2)(b)		S				

Officer(s)	Allegation	Investigator Recommendation
O.SGT Christian Flores	Discourtesy: Sergeant Christian Flores spoke discourteously to §87(2)(b)	
P.POM Gerardo Urbaez	Discourtesy: Police Officer Gerardo Urbaez spoke discourteously to § 87(2)(b)	
§ 87(4-b), § 87(2)(g)		

Case Summary



CCRB Case # 201905214

Urbaez was interviewed at the CCRB on December 26, 2019. Police Officer Moran and Police Officer Presto were interviewed at the CCRB on January 30, 2020. Police Officer Tavarez was interviewed at the CCRB on February 26, 2020.

It is undisputed that \$87(2)(b) and \$97(2)(b) were riding together in an SUV near 401 West 207th Street in Manhattan. They were pulled over by Sergeant Perez, Police Officer Presto and Police Officer Tavarez. \$87(2)(b) was later arrested when it was discovered that he had an active warrant. He was also issued a summons after Police Officer Urbaez recovered marijuana from his person. Neither \$87(2)(b) nor \$87(2)(b) was arrested or issued a summons.

and sar(2)(b) and sar(2)(b) both denied that they had done anything to warrant being pulled over. They also denied that there were any issues with the condition of the vehicle. None of the officers explained to either civilian why they were pulled over.

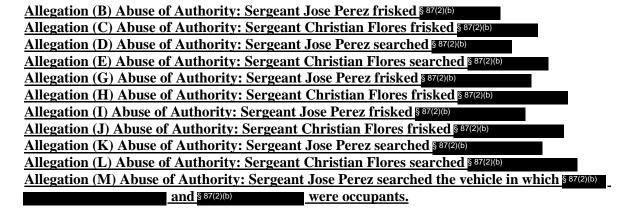
Police Officer Presto stated that he decided to pull the SUV over because it had improperly tinted windows. No other factors contributed to his decision. Sergeant Perez stated that he and his partners pulled the SUV over because Police Officer Presto and Police Officer Tavarez told him that they observed the SUV commit some sort of traffic infraction. Sergeant Perez did not see the alleged infraction himself. He did not recall what infraction the officers claimed to have observed. Police Officer Tavarez did not recall why the SUV was pulled over. All three officers stated that \$87(2)(5) the driver, was ultimately not issued a summons because one of the officers decided to exercise their discretion and release him with a warning. Police Officer Presto stated that Sergeant Flores made this decision. The other officers did not recall who made the decision to release \$87(2)(5) without a summons.

Sergeant Flores, Police Officer Moran and Police Officer Urbaez were not present when the SUV was pulled over. None of them recalled being told why the vehicle had been pulled over once they arrived. None of these officers recalled there being any discussion among the officers about whether to issue \$87(2)(5) as a summons.

The officers' BWC footage is attached in IAs #68-74 (Board Review #02-08). The officers' footage shows the SUV from several angles. The two front windows are rolled down at the beginning of the recordings. The other windows, including the rear windshield, are shown to be tinted. The exact level of tint cannot be determined from the video. None of the officers are heard on the BWC providing any explanation for the vehicle stop.

<u>New York State Vehicle Traffic Law</u> §375.12-a states that motor vehicles may not be operated with tinted windows that have a light transmittance of less than seventy percent (Board Review #13).

§ 87(2)(g)	
§ 87(2)(g)	



It is undisputed that after Sergeant Perez, Police Officer Presto and Police Officer Tavarez pulled the civilians over, they requested an additional unit for backup. Sergeant Flores, Police Officer Urbaez and Police Officer Moran responded to the location to assist them. Police Officer Presto told \$87(2)(b) that he detected an odor of marijuana in the vehicle. After the backup officers arrived, the officers asked the civilians to exit the vehicle one at a time. Each civilian was frisked after they exited the vehicle. Police Officer Tavarez frisked \$87(2)(b) Police Officer Moran frisked Police Officer Urbaez frisked \$87(2)(b) Police Officer Tavarez recovered marijuana from \$87(2)(b) s person at that time. The officers escorted the three civilians to the rear of the vehicle. Sergeant Perez, Police Officer Tavarez and Police Officer Urbaez searched the interior of the SUV, including its trunk. Nothing was removed from the vehicle during this search.

\$87(2)(b) marijuana was later recovered when his arrest was processed at the 34th Precinct stationhouse.

wrapped in plastic bags at the time of the incident. \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{2}\$ stated that he had smoked marijuana several hours before the incident. \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{2}\$ denied smoking marijuana prior to the incident. Both civilians denied that there was any odor of marijuana inside the SUV when the officers pulled them over. \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{2}\$ stated that he invited Police Officer Presto to search his vehicle to prove that there was no marijuana inside. \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{2}\$ and \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{2}\$ both stated that the officers who frisked them went on to search them by reaching inside their waistbands.

All the officers except Police Officer Urbaez stated that they detected an odor of marijuana emanating from the SUV. Sergeant Flores and Police Officer Tavarez characterized it as the odor of burning marijuana, while Sergeant Perez identified it as the odor of marijuana in its vegetative states. Police Officer Moran and Police Officer Presto did not know if the odor was of burning or vegetative marijuana. Police Officer Urbaez did not recall detecting any odors emanating from the SUV, including any odor of marijuana.

All the officers except Police Officer Urbaez stated that the civilians were asked to exit the vehicle and then frisked so that they could investigate the odor of marijuana. Police Officer Urbaez did not recall why the civilians were removed from the vehicle or frisked. None of the officers cited any specific observations they made that suggested that the civilians were armed.

The officers denied that the civilians were searched. Police Officer Tavarez stated that he frisked and that he felt an object on his waistband. He did not recall the object's size or shape and did not know what it was. When Police Officer Tavarez asked \$87(2)(b) was the object was, held it out, revealing that it was marijuana. Police Officer Tavarez did not recall how much marijuana there was or how it was packaged. He denied removing the marijuana from \$370.

s person himself.

All of the officers except Police Officer Urbaez stated that the vehicle was searched to investigate the odor of marijuana coming from within. Police Officer Tavarez also cited his discovery of marijuana on serious sperson as a factor in the vehicle search. Police Officer Urbaez did not recall why the vehicle was searched.

Police Officer Presto's BWC footage is attached in IA #69 (Board Review #03). At 3:03 into the recording, Police Officer Presto states that he is not concerned with finding marijuana, and that he is looking for "other stuff." He asks \$\frac{8}{3}(2)(0)\$ if there is anything in the car that he "needs to know about." \$\frac{8}{3}(2)(0)\$ replies that there is not. Police Officer Presto then asks \$\frac{8}{3}(2)(0)\$ when he last smoked marijuana in the SUV. \$\frac{8}{3}(2)(0)\$ replies, "Yesterday." Police Officer Presto remarks that he can smell marijuana. He then tells \$\frac{8}{3}(2)(0)\$ that he and the passengers will be removed from the vehicle one by one and checked for weapons.

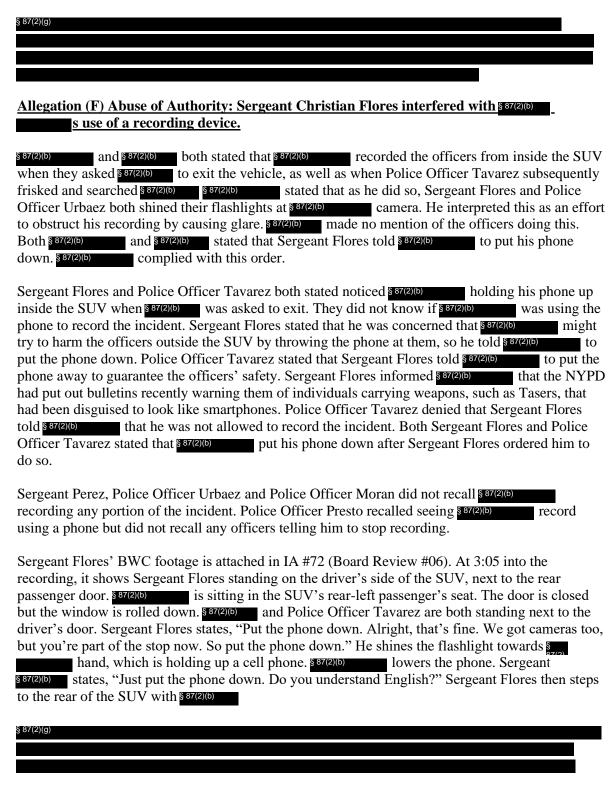
Police Officer Tavarez's, Police Officer Moran's and Police Officer Urbaez's BWC footage is attached in IAs #70, #71 and #73, respectively (Board Review #04-#05, #07). The videos show each officer reaching towards one of the civilians' lower bodies when they exit the SUV. The officers' cameras are not pointed downwards, so they do not show what contact these officers made with the civilians' lower bodies. It is unclear if the officers searched any of the civilians. At 6:50 into Police Officer Tavarez's recording, he asks [887(2)(5)] "What do you have here?" [897(2)(5)] replies, "Marijuana." The video does not show the object that they are referring to.

Property Clerk Invoice #\$87(2)(b) prepared for \$87(2)(b) arrest, states that a Ziploc bag containing marijuana was found in \$87(2)(b) shoe when he was searched in a holding cell at the 34th Precinct stationhouse. A field test positively identified the substance as marijuana (Board Review #01).

7(2)(g)	
7(2)(g)	

The odor of marijuana emanating from a vehicle during a valid traffic stop provides officers with probable cause to search the vehicle's occupants as well as the vehicle itself. <u>People v. Chestnut</u>, 36 N.Y.2d 971 (1975) (Board Review #14).

§ 87(2)(g)	



NYPD Patrol Guide procedure 203-29 states that civilians have a right to lawfully observe and record police activity, including stops. This right to observe and record can be limited for reasons such as the safety of officers or other members of the public, or when a violation of law is committed by the individual or individuals who are recording (Board Review #15).

Page 5

§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation (N) Abuse of Authority: Sergeant Christian Flores seized property.
It is undisputed that \$87(2)(b) was arrested during the vehicle stop. Officers took his cell phone into custody, where it was vouchered as arrest evidence. Neither \$87(2)(b) nor \$87(2)(b) was arrested or issued a summons. \$87(2)(b) was found to be in possession of marijuana at the 34 th Precinct stationhouse while his arrest was being processed.
stated that he recorded Police Officer Tavarez frisk and search \$87(2)(b) on his cell phone. Later, when \$87(2)(b) moved to the rear of the SUV, Sergeant Flores told him that he was going to take custody of \$87(2)(b) phone because the video that he recorded on it was evidence that \$87(2)(b) had been in possession of marijuana. The officers then placed \$87(2)(b) in handcuffs. They later told \$87(2)(b) that he had an open warrant. \$87(2)(b) phone was taken into police custody with his other belongings. He was released after his arraignment the next morning. \$87(2)(b) phone was not returned with his other belongings because it was held as arrest evidence.
observed the officers take phones into custody when he was arrested but made no mention of Sergeant Flores or any other officer claiming that the phones contained evidence of a crime.
Sergeant Flores recalled that \$87(2)(b) was holding his phone up when \$87(2)(b) exited the SUV. He did not know if \$87(2)(b) recorded the incident on his phone. He did not recall if officers recovered marijuana from \$87(2)(b) Sergeant Flores did not recall if he and the other officers took \$87(2)(b) phone into custody when the later arrested him. He did not recall telling that his phone would be seized as arrest evidence because he had recorded officers finding marijuana on \$87(2)(b)
Police Officer Tavarez recalled that \$87(2)(b) had two cell phones with him during the incident and that both were taken into custody when \$87(2)(b) was arrested. He did not recall either phone being vouchered specifically as arrest evidence. None of the other officers recalled \$87(2)(b) phone being seized because it contained video evidence of a crime.
Police Officer Tavarez prepared Property Clerk Invoice #857(2)(b) for \$57(2)(b) arrest (Board Review #01). Sergeant Flores approved the voucher. It lists two cell phones vouchered as arrest evidence. A note states that "the following items did capture the defendant's arrest on video and may contain evidence on said arrest." The cell phones were taken into custody on June 15, 2019 and were transferred to the Manhattan Property Clerk's office on June 20, 2019.
Sergeant Flores reviewed the Property Clerk Invoice during his CCRB interview. When asked why it listed \$87(2)(b) phone as "arrest evidence," he stated that the phone was possibly categorized that way because it included video footage of \$82(2)(b) own arrest, rather than \$82(2)(b) so what was because it included video footage of \$82(2)(b) own arrest, rather than \$82(2)(b) own arrest.

marijuana.

Sergeant Flores' BWC footage is attached in IA #72 (Board Review #06). At 3:40 into the video, Sergeant Flores speaks to \$87(2)(6) at the rear of the SUV. He tells \$87(2)(6) that \$87(2)(6) phone had become "evidence" because it recorded officers recovering "something" on \$87(2)(6) s person. He tells \$87(2)(6) "Now he's not going to have a phone, because now it has to go to a judge. It depends on what happens with you, whether you get your summons or not." At 4:55 into the recording, \$87(2)(6) walks to the rear of the vehicle. Sergeant Flores tells \$87(2)(6) "Whatever contraband he had in his nuts, guess what? Your phone caught it. So whenever he gets a summons or if he gets arrested, guess what? Now your phone has to go to a judge, because it's evidence."

Sergeant Flores was shown this footage during his CCRB. He did not recall what the "contraband" he mentioned in the video referred to.

<u>NYPD Patrol Guide</u> procedure 218-19 states that property taken into police custody must be documented on a Property Clerk Invoice. Each article must be assigned to the correct property category. Categories include "Arrest Evidence" and "Safekeeping" (Board Review #16).

87(2)(g)	
87(2)(g)	
· (-//9)	
	Ī
	_
87(2)(g)	i
	_
87(2)(g)	
87(2)(g)	
	I
	•

Allegation (O) Discourtesy: Sergeant Christian Flores spoke discourteously to \$87(2)(b)
Allegation (P) Discourtesy: Police Officer Gerardo Urbaez spoke discourteously to \$87(2)(b)
stated that after he was moved to the rear of the SUV, Sergeant Flores placed him in handcuffs and stated, "You dumb fuck, you could have just put the phone down." Police Officer Urbaez then asked [887(2)(b)] "You want to be a smartass? You should have kept your mouth shut."
initially stated that earlier in the incident, when \$87(2)(b) was recording him from inside the SUV, Sergeant Flores asked \$87(2)(b) "You want to be a dumbass? Recording?" Later, he stated that Sergeant Flores actually asked, "You want to be an asshole?"
All of the officers denied that any officers used profanity towards the civilians during the incident.
A review of all the officers' BWC footage found that neither Sergeant Flores, Police Officer Urbaez, nor any other officer used profanity at any time during the incident (Board Review #02-08).
§ 87(2)(g)
§ 87(4-b), § 87(2)(g)
Civilian and Officer CCRB Histories
This is the Cont CODD association and in the protocol
• This is the first CCRB complaint to which \$87(2)(b) or \$87(2)(b) has been a party (Board Review #19).
• \$87(2)(b) has been a party to one previous CCRB complaint and has been named as a
victim in one allegation (Board Review #19):
• Sergeant Perez has been a member of the service for fifteen years and has been listed as a
subject in one previous CCRB complaint and one allegation, which was substantiated: o 201708620 involved a substantiated allegation of refusal to obtain medical treatment. The Board recommended Charges. The NYPD has not yet imposed discipline.
○ § 87(2)(g)

Sergeant Flores has been a member of the service for eleven years and has been listed as a subject in one previous CCRB complaints and on allegation, which was not substantiated. Police Officer Urbaez has been a member of the service for eleven years and has been listed as a subject in three previous CCRB complaints and five allegations, two of which were substantiated: o 201500911 involved substantiated allegations of frisk and question. The Board recommended that Formalized Training. The NYPD imposed Formalized Training and Command Level Instructions. Police Officer Moran has been a member of the service for eleven years and has been listed as a subject in eight previous CCRB complaints and thirteen allegations, one of which was substantiated: o 201608020 involved a substantiated physical force allegation. The Board recommended that he receive Formalized Training. The NYPD imposed Formalized Training. Mediation, Civil and Criminal Histories and § 87(2)(b) declined to mediate this complaint. A Notice of Claim request was submitted to the NYC Office of the Comptroller on March 9, 2020. The results will be included in the case file upon receipt. No records were found for \$87(2)(b) arrest or his summons during this incident (Board Review #20). § 87(2)(b) According to OCA, \$87(2)(b) has no history of convictions in New York City (Board Review #20).

Squad No.:	15		
Investigator:	Owen Godshall Signature	Inv. Owen Godshall Print Title & Name	_03/24/2020 Date
Squad Leader:	Simon Wang Signature	IM Simon Wang Print Title & Name	03/24/2020 Date
Reviewer:	Signature	Print Title & Name	 Date